

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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Comment and Criticism.

WE reproduce a manly letter from Lieut.-Col. Gibson, the deservedly popular commander of the thirteenth, appealing to the citizens of Hamilton to support the volunteer movement in general, and the thirteenth in particular. He points out the reasons why the militia force is worthy of support, and chides employers for forgetting in times of peace the protection received during times of disturbance. Then they are ready enough to acknowledge the services rendered, and to slop over with enthusiasm, but later on the same men make no difficulty about dismissing an employee if his militia duties make the slightest calls upon his time or their pockets. Some Canadians have yet to learn the duties they owe the state, and if such letters as Col. Gibson's, or any other means, could teach them somewhat of these, the probably greatest barrier to the success of the whole force would be removed.

THE number of new rifle associations that have been organized this year, especially in and west of Ontario, is probably unprecedented, and speaks well for the future prospects of military rifle shooting in Canada. During the whole season we have been receiving reports of practices and prize meetings from districts that never before dreamt of target practice. For instance, Portage la Prairie has a live association, with possession of ten Martini-Henrys procured from the government. Unluckily, the success of their matches lately was greatly impaired by very wet weather. Port Arthur has an excellent range, thanks to the energy of Capt. Ray; the county of Russell this month witnessed its first prize meeting; and now Milton follows suit. In this last instance Capt.

Panton, who commands No. 7 Co. of the 20th battalion, and who is an enthusiastic shot, was directly instrumental in organizing the association, and deserves great praise for the success of the competition of which we give the results in this issue. Considering that few of the competitors had fired a rifle before this season the scores are more than creditable, Private Robertson's (20th battalion) full score at 200 yards, kneeling, being the feature of the day.

OH! if we only had reliable Snider ammunition there would be some satisfaction in shooting, and in knowing that the prospects for increased interest in target shooting all over the country were good, but when we have to use stuff that we have lost confidence in, we will speedily follow up by losing heart altogether. The Ottawa club's season's record is a fresh proof of the difference in quality of the two ammunitions. The average is over 7 points per score less than last year, and the aggregate prize for five scores was taken with 37 points less. That the fault is not with the marksmen is proved by the fine scores made last Saturday with Martinis, when Mr. Carroll worked in a pretty 95 and six men got over inners.

LAST week's general orders are longer than usual, in consequence of the extended interval since the last issue. They include eighteen promotions, twenty-four new appointments, seven of these being qualified, and thirty-two losses, leaving a balance of eight on the wrong side, that is a net loss of that number of commissions. Above the rank of captain we find only the following changes: Major McGill, R.M.C., has received his brevet as lieutenant-colonel, a well deserved promotion; Major Armstrong exchanges brevet for substantive rank in the New Brunswick Brigade of Artillery, and Lt.-Col. Doherty succeeds to the command of the 82nd, rendered vacant by the death of Col. Beer. Amongst the non-combatants we find Dr. Campbell attaining, on the completion of twenty years' service as surgeon, the rank of surgeon-major; Dr. Aitken resigns from the 75th, and Surgeon-Major Page from the 78th, his place being taken by his assistant, Dr. McLean.

LT.-COL. MATHESON is to be congratulated on getting the head-quarters of his fine regiment, the 42nd Battalion of Infantry, changed from Brockville to Perth. Brockville is too small to support two corps, and the majority of the companies of the 42nd have always belonged to the County of Perth. Now it will be in order for the commanding officers of the 42nd and 41st to effect an exchange of a couple of companies to further consolidate and improve both corps.

THE organization of the two new school drill associations this week gazetted, is a step that we hail with pleasure, for there is no better way of inducing good material to join the militia than to teach them their drill when, as boys, they pick it up most readily. If Canada wants her sons to have a martial spirit she should include military training in every school curriculum, and not leave it, as she practically does now, to the individual tastes of the masters or boys. And she should help the drill companies that are formed more substantially than she now does, by a direct money grant annually, towards paying for uniforms and